

Speer

Republican

The New Opportunity of

Fresno

the Church

June 22, 1919.

Religion and Life

From among many books which plainly show the renewed faith and courage with which the leaders of religious thought are meeting modern issues, we take first of all a most personal and unexpected book which casts light upon the character of the late Julia Ward Howe, who was born May 27th, 1819, and died October 17, 1910. This book entitled "The Walk with God," consists of extracts from her private journals, some hitherto unpublished verses, and a famous essay of hers, "Beyond the Veil" (which is from a book published by Harpers). Mrs. Laura E. Richards, of Gardiner, Maine, edits the volume and explains "My mother left her journals to me with no suggestions of their being published. Since, however, the following passages may conceivably help and comfort other seekers of the way. It seems in accordance with her spirit of love and service to give them to the public." It certainly so appears to this reviewer. The book fills a place all its own, and in truth fits the times. Here's a stanza from Mrs. Howe's Decoration Day Journal, written in 1905. Our dead heroes say:

"We who our blooming manhood gave,
 To help our country's promise true,
 Salute you; from each warrior's grave,
 Our pledge of brotherhood renew.
 Never for empty sound of fame
 Never for heaps of sordid gold,
 Never for popular acclaim,
 Be the Land's sacred birthright sold."

These patriotic lines continue with "Rise ever up for human right"--which is one of the'

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New York

key-notes of the whole book. One can open the book anywhere and find with reverence something for the soul's renewal in these brief prose extracts from the journal.

The lives and the work of the Howe family these hundred years are very dear to Americans. Dutton has done well to issue this book. (\$1.50 net).

"The New Opportunity of the Church," by Dr. Robert E. Speer, calls itself (in the preface) "a simple word of summons and reassurance." Then it quotes a famous, old-time inscription from Duala, in Kamerun: "The old falls; the Times will change. And new life will blossom from the ruins."

Dr. Speer discusses present dangers and duties, the effects of the war "on christian convictions and ideals," the "larger christian co-operation," the "foreign missions," the immense "undertaking of peace," and other such topics as these we name. He does it so well that the book has a strong appeal and will interest every reader. Turn for instance, to pp. 53-60, and read about William Shedd in Persia last year.

Speer

Herald

The New Opportunity

Duluth

of the Church

The position and ability of the author give him the right to be heard on this subject. "The morrow of victory," Mazzini said, "is more perilous than its eve." Clemenceau said to some senators who were congratulating him, "Our difficult time is approaching. It is harder to win peace than to win war." Dr. Speer says we are endangered by moral relaxation, by the dissolution of unity, by the surrender of idealism. The need today is the loyalty and patriotism of peace, the desire and purpose of a new world. Herein lies the opportunity of the Christian church. She can believe a better world is possible; she can aid in overcoming enemies remaining; she can support men and measures bringing in the new day; she can stand with immovableness for right and character. Co-operation of church with church must be wrought out for the food of the world; this is the lesson Christianity must learn from the war. Dr. Speer says: "Good will and earnest purpose are not enough. There must be also careful and competent thinking out of the economic and social problems involved in the next forward steps in human progress. But good will and earnest purpose must be back of all such thinking and it is for good will and earnest purpose that this little book appeals."

All men interested in Christianity, her institutions, her ideals, her future ought to read this book together with others in the series.

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Speer

Christian Herald

New Opportunity

New York City.

5/10/19

Speaking of writing, Dr. Robert E. Speer is always sure of an audience. There is probably no man in public life in America today better qualified to discuss the "New Opportunity of the Church" the title of his latest book just issued. In this little volume of something over one hundred pages he throws out a challenge to the denominations: "Why not discard the authority of the old limitations in moral and social achievement? We may begin a new era of racial and national relationship if we will. The limitations and hindrances are not in God or in nature, but in us." Those who hold unselfishness in disesteem, who believe in mercantile principles alone, would lead us nowhere but backward, while the faces of those who once followed them are now turned forward. If the new order is to be won, Dr. Speer believes it must be attained by "a steadfast immovableness." No yielding or compromise on absolute moral principle must be thought of, although there may be compromises in method and process. "If I want a new world," he declares, "I must be the kind of a man I want the new world to be."

Henry Watterson wrote: "The paramount issue underlying Democracy is the religion of Christ and him crucified. This is the bedrock of salvation, of service and reserve, of all that is worth while having; not as a huddle of sects and factions, but as a mighty force and principle." Dr. Speer recognizes it as the business of the Church today to discern clearly and to

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preserve the true sense of its own mission. The war has not discredited the Church. It has made the Cross of Christ its most conspicuous symbol. It illuminated and glorified the personality of Christ. It educated the world in fundamental Christian principles.

What has the Church learned through the war? Dr. Speer believes it has been shown the value of interdenominational cooperation and its possibilities. It has received a new revelation of the spiritual problem. Have we the dynamics for carrying out a scheme of new coordination and rearranging of activities?

Have we the men with courage and vision to carry it through? Churches may meet and discuss, but leaders of breadth and spiritual power are indispensable. Yet much discussion has passed and no adequate working plan to bring the denominations together has been reached, although they are absolutely necessary to each other and need mutual encouragement, inspiration and faith. Here and there, a communion sees the application clearly enough, while others are still resourceless, and some are inactive or indifferent.

This whole situation is one that makes the strongest possible argument for the imperative need of Church Unity. For the churches, the tasks of peace are vastly more intricate and difficult than those of war. To face them successfully, they need mutual encouragement and help. They have seen how the nation has united to take up the tasks of peace "These unities must not be allowed to rebuke us.... There must be cooperation to assure coordination of forces which aim at common ends and of programs which cover common ground. We must provide full interchange of knowledge and purposes," all working together efficiently for the same end.

Dr. Speer admits frankly that he does not know how this can be done, but a way should be

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found. His conclusion is that, having once started and accomplished certain tasks, the Church cannot withdraw. We have set out as a Christian Church in the great war; there is no holding back, NO STOPPING, UNTIL WE GET THROUGH-ABSOLUTELY NONE! THIS MOVEMENT OF CLOSER COORDINATION AND COOPERATION IS NEVER GOING TO STOP. IT IS GOING TO GROW YEAR BY YEAR WITH INCREASING POWER."

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New York

Speer

Amer. Lutheran Survey

New Opportunity

May 28, 1919.

There are few men in America who enjoy a great or degree of respect and confidence than is accorded to Dr. Robert E. Speer, the author of this little book. The sincere spirituality of the man is seen and felt in every page, and one lays the book down with the feeling that an honest and an able man has made an earnest and sincere effort to pass a word of encouragement on to his fellows in an hour of perplexity and distress.

This book contains one hundred and eleven pages. Its contents are gathered into five chapters. The title of the first chapter is, "Some Dangers and Duties of the Present Hour;" the second, "The Present Business of the Church;" the third, "The Effect of the War on Christian Convictions and Ideals;" the fourth "The Duty of a Larger Christian Cooperation;" the fifth, "The War Aims and Foreign Missions".

The preface offers a key to the interpretation of the book and because it is so brief we reproduce it as follows:

"This little book is not an attempt to prescribe any program or method of reconstruction or to define in any comprehensive way the present tasks of the Christian Church. A good deal more is called for today than this little volume at all considers. Good will and earnest purpose are not enough. There must be also careful and competent thinking out of the economic and social problems involved in the next forward steps in human progress. But good will and earnest purpose must be back of all such thinking and it is for good will and earnest purpose that this little book appeals. In the midst of much hesitation and questioning it is a simple word of assurance and reassurance in the

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faith of the motto written over the door of the old hotel in Duala, in Kamerun, "The old falls. The time will change. And new life will blossom from the ruins."

To us the greatest characteristic of this book is its optimism, an optimism which is the product of faith, and of the kind of faith defined by the Scriptures: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." We have nowhere met with so charitable a view of the ultimate results of the war as Dr. Speer gives us in this book. It is evident that the testimony upon which he bases his conclusions is very different from that upon which some of the rest of us have had to depend. It is true that he condemns war as a destructive agency as strongly as words make possible, but he could hardly have glorified those engaged in war more than he has.

The first chapter, "On Dangers and Duties," is clear and strong. The dangers of this hour are depicted with repeated affirmation that the problems of peace immediately following a war, like the one through which we have just passed, carry greater dangers than even those of war itself. Dr. Speer, in the face of these dangers, challenges the church to seize the present opportunity to make the world better than it has ever been before.

The writer declares, "The Present Business of the Church" to be religion. The word "Religion" is used in a broad sense. He says "let us single out two elements of the Church's business and seek to make them clear. It is the business of the Church, for one thing, to supply ideals for society and for humanity and the conviction which must sustain such ideals." Four ideals are enumerated: "Righteousness, repentance, service and faith." These four ideals are discussed with some fullness. We fail to follow the logic in the order of their arrangement, but the discussion is good.

Dr. Speer is particularly optimistic in his statements on "The Effects of the War on Christian Convictions and Ideals." He seems to believe that our soldiers and sailors, quite generally have been confirmed, by the war, in belief in the God of the Bible. He further says that the war

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May 28, 1919.

has confirmed the traditional doctrine of the Church concerning man, and he claims that in no appreciable degree has the Church been discredited in its relation to the army and the navy.

Incidentally we call attention to the following quotations from Dr. Speer on the Lords Supper, which are strikingly Lutheran in their substance: "It was the churches which could feed men upon Him in the Sacrament and nerved them by the power of the sense of His communicated life." "Men wanted the nourishment of the body and blood of Christ.

On "The Duty of Co-operation" the author presents "Five great lessons," which he declares he believes the experience of the war has taught us in regard to the problems of interdenominational co-operation. The first of these is, "The Absolute indispensableness of an adequate unselfish instrumentality for cooperation, in the name of the Church and with a consciousness of the Church in its richest historic and spiritual significance", the second is, that "the experience of the war has thrown a great deal of light on the principles and problems of this interdenominational service and cooperation which is necessary." The point here emphasized is the necessity for proper leadership. The third lesson is thus stated: "In the third place, we have learned more clearly that the pathway of co-operative advance lies through the field of action and embodied activity and service, rather than through the field of discussion or of the attempt to settle the theoretical principles of such activities and service." The writer claims

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that he has no lack of appreciation of theory and that in the last analysis everything comes ~~XX~~ back to theory. The particular spheres of co-operation activity and service are enumerated; To secure the rightful place of religion in the American army; to recruit men for Christian service; to meet the problems of Christianity and education; to meet the new home mission responsibilities; to coordinate foreign missionary enterprise.

The fourth lesson taught by the war to the churches the author says "relates to the processes and the forms of their cooperative action. Under this head is an interesting discussion of the service of the Federal Council of the Churches. As to the fifth lesson, the author says, We have learned from this war that men have no business going into war unless they intend to stay in it until it has been won." The application is made to the spiritual warfare in which the Church is now engaged.

Under "The War Aims and Foreign Missions" Dr. Speer enumerates five moral aims upon which he justifies participation in the recent war, the summary of which is to make war impossible and to promote universal good will among men. This he claims is and has been the great practical purpose of the foreign missionary enterprise and makes an appeal to all of those who support the recent war on the basis of these moral aims to continue in greater cooperative activity for the higher realization of these aims through the evangelization of the world.

Speer

Presbyterian Advance

Nashville, Tenn.

New Opportunity

June 12, 1919.

"Our present practical question now is what Christian men and women and the Christian church can do to win a better world out of the war." Thus stating the problem, and believing that "careful and competent thinking out of the social and economic problems involved on the next forward steps in human progress is necessary," Dr. Speer proceeds to discuss in his usual thorough manner these subjects: Some Duties and Dangers of the Present Hour, The present Business of the Church, The Effect of the War on Christian Convictions and Ideals, The Duty of a Larger Christian Co-operation and the War Aims and Foreign Missions. It is unnecessary to add that the little book is pecked with rich food for thought and many fine quotable sentences. Such studies are calculated to help forward the kingdom of our Lord in these serious days.

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Spser

Reedy's Mirror

St. Louis, Mo.

New Opportunity

May 15, 1919.

The war has presented, among other reconstruction problems, such a problem with regard to the Christian churches. How the churches can be made more like one church and thus effective for old purposes through new methods. How the church must tackle and help solve economic and social problems. Mr. Spser, avoiding any definite program or method in his suggestions, describes this booklet as "a simple word of summons and assurance." He calls for larger Christian Co-operation and seems to have much hope of the effectiveness of foreign missions in straightening out the world tangle.

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Northwestern Christian

Advocate-Chicago, Ill

New Opportuntiy

April 9, 1919.

We cannot do better than quote the foreward of the author: "There are three different course open to the Christian man to-day. One is to throw his Christian idealism overboard and postpone his effort to adjust religion to his life until the war is over. A second is to hold fast to his Christian idealism and to repudiate the real world he is living in. The third is to take Paul's counsel and seek to behave as a citizen in a manner worthy of the gospel, believing that his present duty is to be a Christian, not in some other world, but in this one, and that this duty can be done in the highest loyalty to it, to humanity, and to Christ." This little book is an attempt at a statement of this third course.

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Speer

The Teacher

Otterbein

New Opportunity

If books were bought by weight and their intrinsic worth was indicated by the scales, this little book of one hundred and eleven pages would be worth a goodly sum. Mr. Speer has gathered the wealth of his intelligence concerning present church problems and expressed his convictions in the five chapters bearing the titles: 1. Some Dangers and Duties of the Present Hour. 2. The Present Business of the Church. 3. The Effect of the War on Christian Convictions and ideals. 4. The Duty of a Larger Christian Cooperation. 5. The War Aims and Foreign Missions. In this book we have a mighty appeal for a careful and competent thinking out of the economic, social and moral problems involved in the next forward steps in human progress. That good will and earnest purpose must be back of all such things is strongly emphasized. As we face the present problems of reconstruction from the Christian standpoint this message comes as a word of summons and reassurance. The fact that Times will change makes it men's supreme duty to see that new life blossoms from the ruins.

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Speer

Christian Advocate

Birmingham, Ala.

New Opportunity

May. 8, 1919.

"There is a military maxim in the First Book of Kings which we know from our own experience to be wise and just. "Let not him that girdeth on his armor boast himself as he that putteth it off. But we have discovered that the converse of this warning is equally true. "Let not him that putteth off his armor boast himself as he that girdeth it on." The same perils that meet men and nations at the beginning of a war meet them at the end. There is the peril of over confidence. There is the peril of underestimating the task. There is the peril of a lack of unity, vigilance and provision and of willingness to pay the price of peace. And men may succumb to these perils at the end who overcame them at the beginning."

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Speer

The Argonaut

San Francisco, Cal.

New Opportunity

May 3, 1919.

Robert E. Speer is the author of a little volume entitled "The New Opportunity of the church," just published by the Macmillan Company (60 cents). There are those who will question the reality of that opportunity, but the author's sincerity as well as his felicity of expression are unmistakable.

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New York

Spaer

Herald & Presbyter

Cincinnati, Ohio

New Opportunity

May 14, 1919.

This is a thoughtful and forceful consideration of the present conditions of the world and of the way in which the church can serve men now in Christ's name. It is not a program of new duties. It is rather a summons, and an assurance that much is waiting to be done and that it can be done. It is serious and uplifting in its earnest spirit.

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Speer

Presbyterian Banner

Pittsburgh, Pa.

New Opportunity

May. 22, 1919.

Robert E. Speer is so well known to readers of The Banner that his name will commend the book, and it is only necessary to say that in this volume Dr. Speer indicates some dangers and duties of the present hour and shows the opportunities and responsibilities of the church. His treatment of "War Aims and Foreign Missions" will give to some readers a new idea of the importance of foreign missions as a factor in establishing international righteousness.

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New York

Speer

St. Andrews Cross

Phila.

New Opportunities

June 1919.

Written in Dr. Speer's usual inspirational style, this book is a word of summons to the Christian world as it faces after-the-war problems. The spirit of the book is one of Christian cooperation and undaunted heroism to seize the opportunities and to undertake the greatest of all tasks: The world's evangelization and the missionary enterprise are treated as of paramount importance. Characteristic sentences are: "Loyalty like truth is above life," "Fundamental principles lead us into difficulty, but that is the only place that it is worth while to go."

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Speer

Christian Century

Chicago, Ill.

New Opportunities

May 15, 1919.

"A simple word of summons and reassurance" for these distracted times. The author deals with such subjects as "Some Dangers and Duties of the Present Hour," "The Present Business of the Church," "The Effect of the War on Christian Convictions and Ideals," "The Duty of a Larger Christian Co-operation," etc. (Macmillan.)

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New York

Speer

Railroad Men

New Opportunity

June 1919.

Perhaps no man is better qualified to speak with authority on this timely subject than Mr. Speer. He does not aviate easily, but he is no reactionary. His little book is unpretentious and does not profess to make a thorough study of the subject, but it points in the right direction and is worthy of serious attention. (The Macmillan Company.)

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

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New York

Speer

Saints Herald

Lamoni, Iowa

New Opportunity

May 14, 1919.

It speaks of the present responsibility of the church. Its aim is to promote good will and earnest purpose in meeting the problems before us. It includes brief consideration of some dangers and duties of the present; the present business of the church; the effect of the war; the duty of a larger Christian cooperation, and finally, war aids and foreign missions.

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New York

Speer

Universalist Leader

Boston, Mass.

New Opportunity

May 10, 1919.

No question is more pressing to-day than what is to become of the Church when the war is over. From all sides there have come answers, but few if any are so well fitted to answer as Dr. Speer. He has been right in the midst of the whole matter, and those who want to think straight will be helped by this little volume. He does not pretend to settle the question right off, he knows too much, but he starts out with a message of assurance for the Church providing the Church is big enough to see and grasp its opportunities. Danger and Duties and the Business of the Church lead on to consideration of co-operative methods of reaching success.

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New York

Speer

Democrat & Chronicle

Rochester

New Opportunity

Dr. Robert E. Speer has written a religious book, the nature of which is very well indicated by its title, "The New Opportunity of the Church. To those interested in such matters there is much of interest in the little volume. Price 60 cents. Published by the Macmillan Company, New York.

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New York

Speer

The New Appportunity of the

Church

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Brooklyn Daily Eagle

(Trade Mark "Eagle" Registered)

JUN 14 1919

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The Church's New Opportunity.

Careful and competent thinking out of the economic and social problems involved in the next forward steps in human progress is the watchword of the Rev. Dr. Robert E. Speer, secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Missions, in his monograph, "The New Opportunity of the Church" (Macmillan). Out of the war Dr. Speer sees clearly that the armed conflict will prove to be the greatest boon to foreign missions the world has ever known. What the United States fought for was an ideal that made for a more positive leaning to Christianity for all the world. Christianity surely won the war. Human service rose amid the carnage more resplendent than ever before in any condition of life and sacrifice. It was a truth of action. Was it a truth of sincerity? As Dr. Speer puts it, "Do we mean all that we said and fought for?"

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New York

Speer

~~The Christian Advocate~~

Michigan

The New Opportunity of the Church June 11, 1919.

THE NEW OPPORTUNITY OF THE CHURCH. By Robert E. Speer. The Macmillan Co., New York and Philadelphia. 60c net.

Every page is vibrant with that deep spiritual note that is a part of the very life of the author. Here Dr. Speer deals with the present responsibility of the Church. A "simple word of summons and reassurance" the author terms the book; its aim, he says, is to promote good will and earnest purpose. Beginning with a consideration of Some Dangers and Duties of the Present Hour, Dr. Speer passes to The Present Business of the Church, and then takes up The Effect of the War on Christian Convictions and Ideals, The Duty of a Larger Christian Cooperation, and finally the War Aims and Foreign Missions.

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New York

L.H.C.
New Opportunity

The Chronicle
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
May, 1919.

THE NEW OPPORTUNITY OF THE CHURCH, by Robert E. Speer. New York. 1919. The Macmillan Company. Price: 60 cents.

That the new times contain great promise for the advancement of religion, and that the Church will play its part, is never questioned by Mr. Speer. A reaction from the self-forgetting effort of the war is to be expected, and the duty of the Church is to preach unceasingly the real reason for the fighting and birth of a new and greater age. Christianity alone can save the world from chaos and endlessly returning periods of strife. Righteousness, repentance, service, and faith must be the Church's message. God, man's own greatness, and prayer have been recognized as facts in war life, and all testify to the truth of Christianity and the validity of its ideals. Closer co-operation in the gospel work of the Churches must be accomplished, of course. The factors which will bring such co-operation are disinterestedness, practical power and courage. Foreign missions have made possible the coming of civilization to savage races and will make sure the league of peace for the world.

Mr. Speer's little book is extremely effective in accomplishing its purpose of arousing "good will and earnest purpose," which are indeed necessary before the intricate problems of the new age may be approached.

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The New Opportunity of the Church. By Robert E. Speer, D.D. The Macmillan Company.

For four years, and more, the world poured out life and wealth without limit. It was a struggle that never ought to have been. But once precipitated, there was but one thing to do, and that was for an outraged civilization to go through with it at whatever cost and to spare nothing until the calamity was removed and the liberties of the world secured. In this extremely helpful little book Dr. Speer asks whether the spirit of sacrifice which the war evoked is to be discontinued now that the struggle is over, or are we ready to do for peace and for the coming of the Kingdom of Righteousness all we did for the prevention of what we believed to be the threatened destruction of the freedom of mankind? It is a tremendously important and eminently timely inquiry, and every thoughtful man will do well to hearken and give heed to Dr. Speer's forceful suggestions and conclusions as he discusses such subjects as Some Dangers and Duties of the Present Hour; The Present Business of the Church; The Effect of the War on Christian Convictions and Ideals; The Duty of a Larger Christian Co-operation, and The War Aims and Foreign Missions.

Speaking of closer Christian co-ordination and co-operation, Dr. Speer says: "This movement is never going to stop. It is going to grow year by year with increasing power. We may make mistakes. It is conceivable that we should make such colossal mistakes as to destroy any existing agencies of co-operation so that new agencies would have to be set up in their stead, but as sure as there will be a sunrise tomorrow another agency would be set up in their stead, because we are moving in a great progress from which we can never draw out or be drawn back. The only question we face to-day is whether we are going to be courageous enough, disinterested enough, wise enough to discern our time and to pass into this time with instrumentalities which we are called upon to devise and control and direct that are adequate for the tasks of this day. All of the great values that have come out of the war with us call upon us for this thing—the realization of how much more powerful great moral ideals are than all things else, the discovery of how the sense of something better ahead can command anything from men, and, what is in one sense more wonderful even than all of these and what the soldier feels to have been the greatest thing that the war has brought him, the sheer glory of an unwithholding comradeship. In the camps, in the trenches, wherever the soldiers were, this was the splendid achievement of their great experience. the communized consciousness of a brotherhood that shares everything, that has pooled men's life blood, that has made them one in a great sacrificial, national endeavor. Can we not match that and surpass it in the body of Christ? Do not hours come when we know we *have* matched it; when we feel the glow in our own hearts the longing to cross the chasms between man and man; to produce, at least, here in the midst of our nation, to-day, a fellowship so real, so commanding that in the atmosphere of it we do not need to solve our problems, for we shall find that they

NY

Duplicate

Speer, R E

N Y Tribune

The New Opportunity of the Church

78 / 13 / 19

THE NEW OPPORTUNITY OF THE CHURCH. By Robert E. Speer. Published by the Macmillan Company.

A discussion of the duties and dangers of the present hour, the present business of the Church, the effect of war on Christian convictions and ideals, the duty of a larger Christian cooperation and war aims and foreign missions.

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